weight trans 1,4-content, [a 5 to about a 20] 2 to about 18 percent by weight of [a] vinyl 1,2-content and [a 2 to about a 15] 3 to about 8 percent by weight cis 1,4-content and, in its uncured state, a first major melting point in the range of about 35°C to about 45°C and a second minor melting point in the range of about 55°C to about 65°C.

4. (Amended) The tire of claim [3] 1 wherein [from about 80 to about 97 parts by weight] said at least one diene rubber is natural rubber.

5. (Three Times Amended) A method of preparing a pneumatic rubber tire having a steel cord reinforced carcass ply and an apex which comprises shaping and curing an uncured pneumatic rubber tire in a mold by pressing said tire outwardly against a mold surface under conditions of heat and pressure to cause at least the tread rubber of said tire to flow and cure against said mold surface, the improvement comprising the use of a rubber composition in the apex comprised of, based on 100 parts by weight rubber, (A) about 80 to about 97 parts by weight of at least one diene rubber selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, synthetic cis 1,4-polyisoprene rubber, and cis 1,4-polybutadiene rubber; and (B) about 3 to about 20 parts by weight of a trans 1,4-polybutadiene rubber having [a 65 to about 90] 75 to about 85 percent by weight trans 1,4-content, a [5 to about a 20] 12 to about 18 percent by weight of [a] vinyl 1,2 content and [a 2 to about a 15] 3 to about 8 percent by weight cis 1,4-content and, in its uncured state, a first major melting point in the range of about 35°C to about 45°C and a second minor melting point in the range of about 55°C to about 65°C.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein [from about 80 to about 97 parts by weight] said at least one diene rubber is natural rubber.

9. (Amended) The tire of claim 1 wherein said trans 1,4-polybutadiene has a trans 1,4-content of about 80 percent by weight, a cis 1,4-content of about 5 percent by weight and a vinyl 1,2-content of about 15 percent by weight.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said trans 1,4-polybutadiene has a weight average molecular weight [(Mn)] (Mw) of about 403,000.